



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Harper et al.

Serial No.: 10/068,200

Filed: March 29, 2002

Confirmation No.: 8186

For: Process for Loading a Reactor

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Group Art Unit: 1764

Examiner: Unknown

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is be

37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on December 24, 2002 with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

3 Jun 03
Date

Collins & Son

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims and add new claims 3-7 as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for loading solid particles into a multi-tube reactor, reactor tubes of the reactor having an inner diameter of at least 2 times the diameter of a single particle to be loaded therein, the reactor having an upper tube-sheet holding together the upper ends of the multitude of reactor tubes, the method comprising the following steps:
 - a) positioning a loading device having a plurality of holes on top of the upper tube-sheet such that the loading device rests on and substantially covers the upper tube-sheet and the holes correspond to the reactor tubes, said loading device comprising a plurality of adjacent polygonal plates, each polygonal plate having from 1